Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I cannot make it clearer. I cannot put sense into the head of the Hon'ble Member.

President.—That is objectionable.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—He also made use of such a language against me.

President.—When ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—He must withdraw it, Sir.

President.—Words which are intended to offend the feelings of other Members should not be uttered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If the President thinks it objectionable, I shall withdraw.

President.—It is very objectionable.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The Hon'ble Member also made use of such expressions, and I thought that it was not objectionable.

President.—Sometimes in the heat of the discussion such expressions might be used. It is graceful on your part to withdraw it. Ideas come rushing in one after the other. When it is pointed out that certain expressions are not proper, you should withdraw them. You must weigh your words before you utter them.

School-going population.

535. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the statement made in the *Administration Report* of 1103, para 295 'the percentage of children attending school to the school-going population of the State was 93' :—

(a) the years of age considered by Government as school-going age ;

(b) what was the population of children of school-going age at the time of the last census and what was their population in 1103 ;

(c) what was the total number of children of school-going age that regularly attended school in 1103 ;

(d) what was the total number of children of school-going age among the (1) so called depressed and (2) backward classes in 1103 and of these how many attended school in 1103 ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Six to eleven is considered as school-going age. The school-going population is taken as 15% of the total population as per the last census. This is the usually accepted basis of calculation.

(b) Calculated at 15% of the total population the number of children of school-going age according to the census of 1921

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was 1,46,864. Government have no information as to the exact number of such children in 1103.

(c) The question is too vague to admit of a definite answer. The average percentage of attendance during the year was 84·6.

(d) Calculated at 15% of the total population as per the census of 1921 the number of children of school-going age of the so-called depressed classes was 13,669 and of the backward classes alone 61,737, the corresponding numbers that were attending schools being 11,915 and 45,819.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know why this answer was given? I am asked to put it in a clearer way and it is said that the Member did not understand the question. May I ask for a definite answer to my question? It is the duty of the President to see whether a question is clear or not, and when the President has admitted the question, it is the duty of the Government to answer it.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is the duty of the Government to answer and the Government have answered it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I take it to be an answer to my question?

President.—Please look into the matter.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The question would mean the children who attended all the school days of the year.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does it mean attended all the school days of the year?

President.—All school days generally. You cannot expect the students to attend the school on all working days.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—You have to draw a line somewhere. 50 per cent of the attendance is regular attendance. Suppose it is one day's attendance.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No. It is the number that *regularly* attended.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The only answer would be they must have attended throughout, all the school-going days. I gave whatever information is possible.

President.—You are wanting in clearness.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The President has admitted the question and the Member should have never made out that it is not definite.

President.—Now only it has been brought to my notice. It may possibly escape the President's notice. I see that what you is quite correct.

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